

time they passed they thought basically they were for show. And, obviously, the one calling for elections, which was one of the four, in fact, that has taken place; the Iraqi leaders vetoed the bill on elections. There still could be elections in the fall, but right now they are going to have to do new legislation. So now we are down to 3 out of the 18.

During the month of July, more than one American was being killed per day. We are now at 30 on the 28th day of February. Yesterday, one of my Republican friends, one of the leaders, said the Democrats are in denial. "It's almost as if they are sorry things have gotten better."

Mr. President, all Americans are glad for any American or Iraqi life saved. But unlike the minority, which spent 6 years ignoring the warning signs and following the President's policies in lockstep, Democrats are clear-headed about where this war has been, where it stands today, and what we must do to change course and make our country safer.

Mr. President, last night, I think it was about 7:30 or 8 o'clock, I went back to my office, and there was a man waiting there, one of the Capitol guides. As disabled and wounded Iraqi veterans come through, he brings them by, and if I am in my office, I am always happy to say hello to these wounded veterans. Burt is the tour guide, and my office is just off the Senate floor, so it is fairly easy for them to bring them by.

Last night was a remarkable night. I have met probably 50 of these veterans whom Burt brings around. Last night, a 22-year-old man from Missouri by the name of Matthew McGuire came by. He was there with his girlfriend, his wife to be.

I said: How are you doing?

He said: I'm OK.

He was standing. He was unstable. He had a cane that held him up.

I said: Why don't you sit down, and we will talk a bit.

I said: How long were you in Iraq before you got hurt?

He said: Well, I was there for 6 months.

Five times in that 6-month period, Mr. President, he suffered attacks. Once he was on foot patrol, and he was knocked down by a bomb. One time he was a gunner on a vehicle and was knocked off that. He has all of his limbs. But last month, in January, in one 24-hour period, he had 37 seizures. And I told him about Senator JOHNSON and said: I wish Senator JOHNSON were here.

I talked about Senator JOHNSON being in a coma for the period he was and how much he had improved and that he can now walk on his own and speak 95 percent of how he was able to. I had a picture taken with him; sat and gave them both a hug and kissed her on the cheek. It was really a dramatic night when this young man was telling me that in one 24-hour period he had 37 seizures.

It is one thing to talk about almost 4,000 Americans being killed and 30,000 being wounded, and another when you talk to one of these heroic young men and women. I told him I so appreciated his service to our country and that we are going to do everything we can to make sure the sacrifice he made is not in vain. But these are more than just statistics. These are people. And Matthew McGuire is a person who has been hurt extremely bad. His life will never be the same.

I said: Have you been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder? And he said, yes. But in addition to that, he has brain damage, as indicated by the 37 seizures he had in one 24-hour period. He is only 1 of the 30,000 who have been wounded in a war that is stretching our military to a breaking point.

There is going to be testimony in the Joint Economic Committee today by Nobel Prize winning economist Stiglitz. Mr. Stiglitz has written a book that will come out in about 10 days called "The \$3 Trillion War." This is a Nobel Prize winning economist who has had access to Pentagon records, and he has written how this war has cost and will cost at least \$3 trillion.

General Powell said last year that the Army is about broken, and that is a quote. The day before yesterday, General Casey, Chief of Staff of the Army, confirmed what Powell said a year ago, when Casey said:

The demand for our forces exceeds sustainable supply.

Admiral Fallen and Admiral Mullin agree that concerns about our troop commitment to Iraq may limit our ability to address other global challenges. So we have to take seriously the concerns of General Casey, General Powell, Admiral Fallen, Admiral Mullin, and countless other military leaders and foreign policy experts.

It is time that we understand the sacrifices made by our valiant, heroic military have come at a time when they have done what they needed to do, and we have to get them home. Four hundred million dollars a day. I repeat what I have said a couple times in the last 2 days, Mr. President. The Iraqis believe they have the most significant oil reserves in the world. Everybody recognizes they have the second largest oil reserves in the world. They think they have the largest oil reserves in the world. It is a wealthy nation, and they should take care of their own.

I think what we have talked about is that there should be a force left there of American troops to take care of any counterterrorism activities that need to go forth, and we should have limited training of Iraqis. We have trained almost a half million now, 430,000. And, of course, we have to protect whatever assets we have there. It is a situation that calls for a conclusion.

As I said yesterday, when is enough enough? I think this debate has been good. I think we need to have more in-depth discussions on a Federal program

that is costing us more than \$400 million a day. I think we have spent 2 days on this, and I believe that is not adequate, but we will be back. The President has asked for another, I think, about \$120 billion more to the end of this fiscal year for the war in Iraq, and there will be more discussion at that time. I think we will wait until somewhere late in April to take that up. But the time is coming when we will discuss this in more detail.

I appreciate the good nature of the debate. We just disagree. The Republicans think everything is fine; we don't.

It has been a very positive, in my mind, debate. It has been a civilized debate. I think the American people have been served well by this debate we have had the last couple days.

I would say on the schedule, I am working with the Republican leader to find out when he feels it would be appropriate to have a vote. We are waiting for him. I will visit with him later today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip.

#### IRAQ AND FISA

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, for the benefit of our colleagues, I will summarize where we are this morning as well. The majority leader and the Senator from Wisconsin offered a resolution, a piece of legislation, and sought to proceed to consider it. Republicans agreed to that. We voted last night to invoke cloture, which means we agreed to proceed to the consideration of that resolution.

It has to do with developing a strategy to deal with al-Qaida. It is, as the majority leader said, a debate worth having. As a result, Republicans were happy to engage in that debate and we will throughout the day.

After the period of morning business, we are back on the resolution. I would urge my Republican colleagues to let us know, let the leadership staff know, when they wish to be here to speak on the matter so the schedules can be coordinated, that everyone can debate the issue as they see fit, and that the minority and majority leader a little later in the day can get together and decide when we might be able to schedule the next vote based upon everyone's desire to speak. So if our colleagues would let us know when they desire to come and make their presentations, that would be very helpful.

I would like to correct one thing the majority leader said, in saying Republicans think everything in Iraq is "just fine." I know he did not mean to suggest Republicans believe the situation in Iraq is "just fine." Because clearly it is not. If it were, we could bring our troops home today.

Unfortunately, it is not "just fine," although it is steadily improving. And when it gets to the point when it is "just fine," we will be able then to bring the remainder of our troops home. The primary difference between

the majority and minority is the majority would like to bring the troops home right now. "Enough is enough," says the majority leader.

The Republicans, on the other hand, believe we have to finish the job. And while great progress has been made as a result of the surge implemented by General Petraeus several months ago, the job is not finished. And until the job is finished, there is a great danger that were we to pull out prematurely, al-Qaida, not totally defeated, would infiltrate right back in, reestablish its presence, begin the terrorism which has taken us so many months now to repress, and that we would have to then come right back in again, all at a greater cost than if we simply see the job through right now.

It is possible every day to have a headline from a newspaper revealing a suicide bomber attack or some other incident similar to that in Iraq. That is the unfortunate reality. Everything is not yet "just fine" in Iraq. But it is also true that because the surge has worked to essentially defeat al-Qaida, it has now resorted to the most reprehensible tactics of all: using women, children, the disabled as suicide bombers to go into places where those people are not suspects and they can blow up innocent people in Iraq.

That is the situation we need to help stop, not turn our back and walk away from. It is also true many Iraqis have now been trained by our forces. That is the good news that will enable us eventually, hopefully sooner rather than later, to withdraw our troops from Iraq. We are withdrawing them now.

We will, by June as I recall, be down to a level that is very close to the level that existed prior to the surge. We will be able to do that because the surge has worked. What happens after that, we will await a report from General Petraeus when he comes back to the Capitol and briefs us on the situation in Iraq.

In the meantime, Ambassador Crocker and others have noted significant progress on the political and diplomatic front as well as the economic front in Iraq. The Parliament there is now engaging in vigorous debate, passing resolutions. I note that one was vetoed yesterday. It kind of reminds me of the process in Washington, where we do not always agree on everything and we have a robust debate about it.

We should not be critical of the Iraqis because they cannot agree always on everything, but we should continue to push them to move forward with alacrity, so the things that need to be done politically to enable us to eventually remove our troops can be done. I know we all, Republicans and Democrats, share that goal.

So the bottom line is, we will continue this debate today. I would conclude with this point: One of the important reasons for having this debate today about a strategy for dealing with al-Qaida is because there is a difference of opinion between the House of Rep-

resentatives' leadership and the Senate on this issue.

The Senate voted with 68 Senators, Democrats and Republicans, to reinstitute FISA, the law that enables us to gather intelligence on these terrorists abroad. That law had to be reauthorized because it expired 6 months after we first passed it.

So we had to reauthorize it and make one additional change; that is, to make sure the telecommunications companies that are cooperating with us are protected from lawsuits that have been filed against them simply for their participation with the U.S. Government in collecting this foreign intelligence.

Without that liability protection, they are not likely to continue to help us. So we made that change. It was recommended by the Intelligence Committee on a vote of 13 to 2, a very bipartisan recommendation. The Senate then passed it with 68 affirmative votes. It went to the House of Representatives and there it sits. It sits without a law in force today that enables us to begin new intelligence surveillance activities against terrorists abroad.

This represents a deficiency in our intelligence gathering at a time when as both Admiral McConnell, the Director of National Intelligence, and Attorney General Mukasey have noted that we are losing intelligence every day that would help us in the war against these terrorists.

Every day that goes past that we cannot intercept a communication because the law has not been reauthorized is a day of lost intelligence, intelligence we will never get back. The terrorists are not going to make the phone call a second or third time to accommodate us so we can finally collect the intelligence we need, so we can find out who he is calling and what they are planning. We cannot do that.

So phone calls that occurred yesterday or the day before or the day before that, they are gone, they are lost forever. It is critical we reestablish this capability for collecting foreign intelligence on terrorists.

The legislation passed by the Senate will do that. The President says he will sign it into law, and it is critical that the House of Representatives' leadership allow the House of Representatives to vote on it. If they do, it will pass and it can be sent to the President and it will be signed.

The reason, I gather, it has not been brought forth is because the leadership of the House knows it will pass and, for whatever reason, they do not want this Senate-passed bill to become law.

It is critical the Congress fulfill its responsibility to ensure that our intelligence-gathering capabilities continue on. I would urge again that the best strategy for dealing with al-Qaida starts with authorizing the kind of intelligence collection that we understand is critical to understanding al-Qaida's intentions and thus being able to defeat them.

So in developing a strategy for al-Qaida, No. 1, the House of Representatives' leadership should bring this legislation up for a vote, allow those who support it to send it to the President for his signature, and we can get on with this important collection.

I urge my colleagues to come to the floor and let us know when they wish to speak so we can organize the debate today with an eye toward the minority and majority leader being able to get together and work out a time schedule that would be acceptable to all of us.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington.

#### VETERANS CARE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, our servicemembers in Iraq are fighting under incredibly stressful conditions each and every day. We are on the floor today talking about an Iraq resolution. We are focused on the war or the surge. I wish to talk today about the soldiers themselves who are called on. Many of them, as we know, have come home with terrible injuries that need specialized care. Yet there are too many examples that show today the Bush administration was caught unprepared to take care of these men and women when they have come home.

So as we continue to talk about Iraq, I think it is important we also talk about the toll that this war is taking on our troops and our veterans. I wish to focus today on the need to ensure that our injured servicemembers and veterans can get the care they need and deserve by reminding all of us what happened in the last year and how much we still have to do.

A year ago this month, the Washington Post published a story that uncovered the depth of the problems facing our servicemembers who were being treated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The Post reported then that servicemembers were living in rooms with moldy walls and broken ceilings while they waited, waited to get care. The Post found that many of our servicemembers and their families felt trapped at the time in a bureaucratic catch-22 as they fought to get the disability benefits they had earned.

The news of the extent of the squalid conditions was a watershed moment in